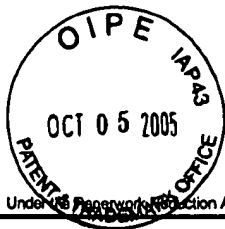


MSW/cgc



PTO/SB/08a/b (07-05)
Approved for use through 07/31/2008. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary)				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	10/669,594-Conf. #5681
				Filing Date	September 25, 2003
				First Named Inventor	Yukinori NOGUCHI
				Art Unit	2161
Examiner Name	S. Metjahic				
Attorney Docket Number	2091-0298P				
Sheet	1	of	1		

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
Mn	AA*	US-2002/0087536-A1	07-04-2002	Ferguson	
Mn	AB*	US-2002/0010722-A1	01-24-2002	Takayama	
Mn	AC*	US-5,572,499	11-05-1996	Kohtani et al.	
Mn	AD*	US-2004/0015479-A1	01-22-2004	Meek et al.	
Mn	AE*	US-5,657,477	08-12-1997	Nonoshita et al.	
Mn	AF*	US-6,005,678	12-21-1999	Higashida et al.	
Mn	AG*	US-2002/0067500-A1	06-06-2002	Yokomizo et al.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ²
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
Mn	BA	JP-2002-57973-A	02-22-2002			✓
Mn	BB	WO-01/16669-A2	03-08-2001			
Mn	BC	EP-0 559 376-A1	09-08-1993			
Mn	BD	EP-0 753 852-A1	01-15-1997			
Mn	BE	EP-0 878 956-A1	11-18-1998			

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. * CITE NO.: Those application(s) which are marked with an single asterisk (*) next to the Cite No. are not supplied (under 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2)(iii)) because that application was filed after June 30, 2003 or is available in the IFW. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	03/03/06
-----------------------	--	--------------------	----------

Birch, Stewart, Kolasch & Birch, LLP

MSW/bsh